

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, TZ

SUBJECT: ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL - APPEALS DECISION ANNOUNCED

REF: ZANZIBAR 30

1. SUPREME COUNCIL, HIGHEST JUDICIAL BODY OF REVIEW IN ZANZIBAR'S LEGAL SYSTEM, HANDED DOWN JUDGMENT IN TREASON CASE IN SEVEN-HOUR SESSION FEBRUARY 9. FOCUS OF ATTENTION WAS ON COUNCIL'S HANDLING OF SENTENCES OF DEATH AGAINST 14 APPELLANTS HELD IN ZANZIBAR AND 10 HELD IN MAINLAND TANZANIA.

2. DEATH SENTENCES OF THREE APPELLANTS HELD IN ZANZIBAR UPHELD. DEATH SENTENCES OF ELEVEN OTHERS WERE COMMUTED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR THIRTY OR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. FOUR DEATH SENTENCES IN MAINLAND GROUPS WERE UPHELD. DEATH SENTENCES OF SIX WERE COMMUTED TO PRISON TERMS OF THIRTY YEARS. MOST NOTORIOUS OF PEOPLE STILL INVOLVED IN CASE, ABDULRAHMAN MOHAMED BABU, FORMER MEMBER OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ONCE TANZANIA'S MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, IS AMONG THOSE STILL UNDER DEATH SENTENCE. BABU, LIKE OTHERS HELD ON MAINLAND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS TRIED IN ABSENTIA AND HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN APPEALS.

3. IN OTHER TREASON CASE JUDGMENTS, SUPREME COUNCIL TENDED TOWARD REDUCTION OF PRISON SENTENCES, ALTHOUGH LENGTH OF SEVERAL TERMS WAS UPHELD. ONE MAN PREVIOUSLY SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS WAS ACQUITTED. FIVE OTHERS WERE CONSIDERED BY SUPREME COUNCIL TO HAVE SERVED ADEQUATE TERMS AND THEIR RELEASE WAS

DIRECTED.

4. SUPREME COUNCIL JUDGMENT LEAVES THREE WHO COULD STILL BE EXECUTED. IT QUITE UNLIKELY ANY HELD IN MAINLAND TANZANIA WILL BE EXECUTED. ALL SENTENCES, INCLUDING ACQUITTAL AND RELEASES, MUST NOW BE AFFIRMED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ABOUD JUMBE. IN CASE OF DEATH SENTENCES HE HAS CHOICE OF ORDERING EXECUTIONS, GRANTING CLEMENCY, OR DOING NOTHING. DEATH SENTENCES CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT HIS CONFIRMATION.

5. ATTORNEY-GENERAL WOLFANGO DOURADO, WHO HAD APPEALED FOR CLEMENCY FOR ALL UNDER DEATH SENTENCE, NOT COMPLETELY DISSATISFIED WITH RESULT. HE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY ADAMANT THAT NOO OF THOSE WHO WERE FORCED TO PLEAD GUILTY SHOULD FACE DEATH PENALTY. ONLY ONE OF SIX IN THIS CATEGORY HAD DEATH SENTENCE UPHELD. HE HAD ALSO HOPED FOR MORE OUTRIGHT ACQUITTALS INSTEAD OF RELEASES ON GROUNDS THAT ENOUGH TIME HAD ALREADY BEEN SERVED. HALSTED

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